

November 6, 2003

2003 Assistance to New Hampshire Landowners Incentives for Private Land Conservation

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Part of how we accomplish this is through our conservation programs. Fiscal Year 2003 has brought more funding than ever before into the state for conservation practices that will be applied on the ground. This is due to the extra effort and diligent work provided by New Hampshire NRCS employees and the conservation partnership.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

FRPP is designed to help slow the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. New Hampshire has lost 26,700 acres of cropland and pastureland to urban development from 1982 to 1997 (National Resources Inventory). Requests for the much needed Federal financial assistance for farmland protection will most likely increase dramatically over the next few years as development pressure increases and grass-roots involvement becomes even more mobilized. NRCS is working to assist many entities in New Hampshire safeguard as much land as possible in the state, to date this program has protected 2, 657 acres of prime farmland.

2003 Summary of FRPP Financial Assistance to New Hampshire

FRPP applications approved for funding:	15
FRPP applications funded:	8
Initial allocation:	\$1,362,000.00
Second allocation:	\$ 516,358.00
Total FY 2003	\$1,878,358.00
2003 unmet requests for FRPP	\$ 2,784,300.00

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP helps landowners and operators solve natural resource concerns on farms, including cropland, grazing land, forestland, and water conservation. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to help eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP may cost-share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices. All EQIP activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan and are implemented through 5 or 10-year contracts.

2003 Summary of EQIP Financial Assistance to New Hampshire

EQIP applications funded:	113
Initial allocation:	\$1,361,800.00
Second allocation:	\$1,033,500.00
Third allocation:	\$ 158,985.00
Total FY 2003	\$2,554,280.00
2003 unmet requests for EQIP	\$ 500,000.00

(over)

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.

2003 Summary of GRP Financial Assistance to New Hampshire

GRP applications received:	5
GRP applications funded:	2
Initial allocation:	\$57,000.00
Second allocation:	4,000.00
Third allocation:	<u>7,500.00</u>
Total FY 2003	\$68,500.00
One rental agreement	
One permanent easement	
2003 unmet requests for GRP	\$1,129,635.00

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat plan which generally lasts from 5 to 10 years. NRCS provides both technical and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

2003 Summary of WHIP Financial Assistance to New Hampshire

WHIP applications approved for funding:	65
WHIP applications funded:	61
Initial allocation:	\$200,000.00
Second allocation:	<u>\$148,000.00</u>
Total FY 2003	\$348,000.00
2003 unmet requests for WHIP	\$ 52,946.00

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support for wetland restoration efforts. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

2003 Summary of WRP Financial Assistance to New Hampshire

WRP applications approved for funding:	6
WRP applications funded:	6
Initial allocation:	\$280,000.00
Second allocation:	<u>\$ 34,600.00</u>
Total FY 2003	\$314,600.00

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